MEETING LOCATION
Our meeting is November 4, 11:30am and will be held at the old Senior Citizens Center
925 Conover Street, Grand Prairie
The Cost of the lunch is $15 which is being catered by Eddlemon Brothers
Please RSVP to Angela Giessner 972-262-5151

In this meeting, the Grand Prairie Historical Organization salutes our hometown Veterans with a presentation by Bobby Donaldson. Please join us for this special program and meet some of our WWII Veterans including Claude (Buster) Tinsley, John Henry, Tom Bill Bostick, Joe Ausmus and more.

Would you like to play a bigger role in the growth of our organization? We need Volunteers to staff the Copeland Home tours and to help organize the museum. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Goolsby at: k_goolsby@tx.rr.com or 817-319-9936

As decided by the group, this may be your last hard copy of the newsletter if you are not a paid member. We will be sending the newsletter out via email and a hard copy to paid members that do not have an email address. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email please send a request to: bingham@alliance-services.com

Our newest Life Members are:
Bobby Donaldson, Janette Skrasak, Bebe Bingham, Rochelle Crump, Reggie Crump, Pat Capps, Scott Donaldson, Gary Hill, JoBeth Peebles, Loni Haran, Betty Hulse, Linda McNeff, Joan Longorio Claybourn, Bill Claybourn, Don Goldsmith, Mickey Powell, Greta Berry Beckler, Alice Stanfield Ernst, Paul Wayne Ernst, , Kathy Ritterhouse, Laurie Johnson, Kathy Kaderka Sherrill, Kenny Tyler and John Wright

Check out the new Web Site! Thank you so much to Kathleen Andrews for making this happen. Kathleen did an exceptional job with this site and volunteered hours of her time to make it look fantastic.

www.GPHistorical.com
Freedom is not Free
by Ashley Persyn

There is a price we pay for freedom
For it is not truly free
But rather paid for by the contributions of veterans
To buy our liberty
As their blood drains from their body and runs like a river through the grass
Over the years it's forgotten, war is placed in our past
I don't think we all realize the importance veterans play
as they voluntarily serve America each and every day
We should honor the veterans for they act like a shield
Protecting us from danger, keeping America healed.
So if you would take a second to commemorate
You will instantly see
We owe veterans our gratitude
For they are the reason we are free

Grand Prairie Historical Organization — Corporate Sponsors

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George “Dan” Liggett  Bobby Shanks

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Grand Prairie Historical Organization — Life Members
Answering The Call to Duty

Joe Robert Ausmus, World War II vet age 93, has lived in Grand Prairie since 1954. Along with his wife, Sammie Janice Sanders Ausmus, he raised five children who all attended Grand Prairie schools. Joe retired from LTV after thirty-five years of service. Joe joined the Army for the first time in 1937. He served from 1937-1940 and was based in Cheyenne Wyoming where he served in the Army Honor Guard. He and his fellow soldiers did close order drill which included marching and rifle drills. Joe and his First Infantry, Co. B performed for President Roosevelt when the President came to Wyoming for the Western Days festivities.

After his first stint in the army, Joe trained as an electrician becoming a Journeyman Electrician, joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and did defense work at Camp Maxey during the beginning of WWII. In late 1943 Joe was drafted back into the Army at age twenty-seven. By this time he was married with three children, but the army needed men, and he went. During WWII he served in 5th Army, 85th Division, Company B of the 338 Infantry Division. As part of the campaign to win victory in Italy, Joe landed in Naples, Italy in August, 1944. Along with his buddies, he fought in the Po Valley through Rome and Pisa all the way up to Bologna. He served under the command of General Mark Clark and can remember walking with Gen. Clark and four other fellow soldiers serving as an advanced guard for his battalion. While serving in WWII, Joe was wounded twice—once from small arms fire and once from shrapnel—and was awarded a Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster. He also has an E A M E Campaign Medal with 3 Bronze Stars. Like many WWII vets, Joe did not talk about the war unless you asked him. Indeed, much of what we know about his service we found out when he was 88 and was being interviewed by his great-granddaughter Madeleine for a school project. Her assignment was to interview someone who had participated in a heroic event, and she chose her Granddaddy Ausmus.

Because Joe grew up surrounded by family and hard work, he became first and foremost a family man who learned to be a good provider. Joe is a thoughtful, modest man of strong character who is slow to anger and an excellent role model for his family. He has worked hard and has a great sense of commitment to his family that does not waver. He is blessed with a great sense of humor and has a kind, gentle soul. As Tom Brokaw says in his book, The Greatest Generation, their “…generation was united not only by a common purpose, but also common values—duty, honor, economy, courage, service, love of family and country, and above all responsibility for one’s self.”

Sammie Ausmus Walker
"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

*(John 15:13)*

Sgt David Melton Archer, 5th Marine Regiment B CO 1 BN 1st Marine Division

Born: April 5th, 1927, Seriously wounded while fighting the enemy in Korea and died of those wounds on August 13, 1950: Changchon—Hill 202. Sergeant Archer was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Sgt. Archer joined the service in 1943 prior to graduating from Grand Prairie High School. He would have graduated with the class of 1945.